SBCA TREE CONSULTING

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Date: January 20, 2015

To: Jesse Barajas
City of Alameda Public Works Department

Location: 915 Broadway

Subject: Tree Safety Inspection

Species: *Fraxinus velutina,* Modesto Ash

Assignment: Arborists were asked to use the Resistograph to determine the level of decay and the resulting safety of the Modesto Ash Trees.

Introduction

This report should be read in conjunction with SBCA Tree Consulting Report, *Broadway Modesto Ash: Tree Survey 2*, which was submitted on May 9, 2007. The Modesto Ash in question was listed as #12 in this previous report.

Scope of Investigation

Arborist sounded the lower trunk and scaffold to determine potential decay areas. Subsequently, the Resistograph was used to determine the amount of sound wood remaining in the large stem growing over the street.

Summary

Observation reveals that this tree has suffered numerous stem failures in the past. Preliminary sounding to trunk and scaffold stems using a mallet indicated a high level of hollowness in the scaffold stems between 10 and 15 feet high.

The 18 ½ inch diameter stem selected for investigation with the Resistograph has a high “target” rating because it has developed over a relatively busy street. The large stem is also weakly attached due to what is commonly referred to as “included or embedded bark”. Results of the Resistograph investigation indicated significant decay throughout the 18 ½ inch stem.

It is recommended that the tree be removed before the spring leaf flush when the stem will be heavier and more subject to wind forces.

Discussion and Analysis

This ash tree, as well as many others on Broadway, was inspected for relative safety by SBCA Tree Consulting in 2007. The results of the inspection indicated that most of the trees are nearing the end of their safe and useful life expectancy. Most trees require either crown reduction pruning to improve the safety or removal.

The 2007 inspection rated this tree as a high priority pruning or removal. (P-1, R-2) This designation means that the tree had a high priority rating for pruning and a second priority rating for removal. Since the 2007 inspection, the subject tree has suffered as least two stem failures.

It remains the opinion of SBCA Tree Consulting that it is time to consider the replacement of many of the ash trees due to the safety concerns from decay. Trees located below power lines are generally the most decayed due to earlier pruning treatments.

Recommendation

Remove tree as soon as it can be undertaken efficiently. Tree removal should occur prior to the spring when leaves develop, resulting in additional weight and wind sail.

End Report

Submitted by:

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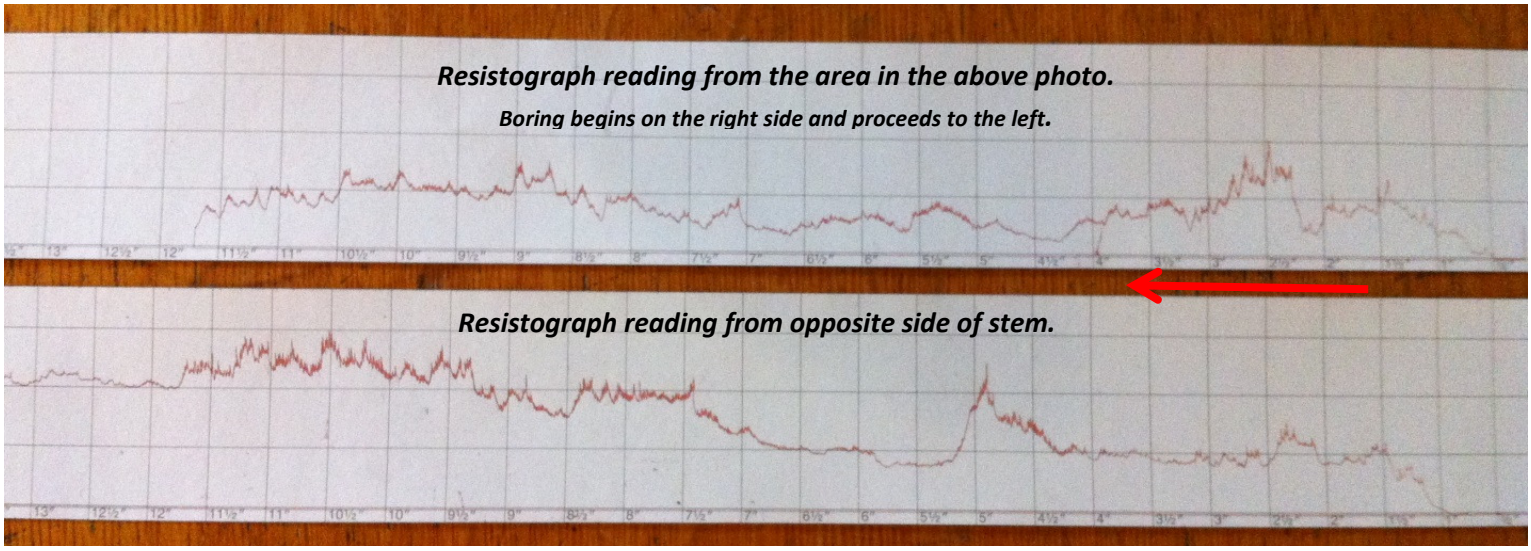
Photo Appendix

Photo 1. *Photo to left shows arborist using the Resistograph to determine the level of decay. The area of Resistograph investigation was determined by sounding the trunk and scaffold using a mallet. Two borings were administered; the boring shown in the photo above is from the upper north side. A second boring was taken on the lower south side of the stem on the same cross sectional area. The stem being investigated has grown toward the street.*

Compounding the decay level is the included bark attachment identified by the red arrow.

Photo 2. *Photo below shows Resistograph boring recordings. The lines created by the Resistograph show many dips and a failure to increase in resistance. This indicates the area of the boring holes contain significant decay, which was also identified by sounding with a mallet.*



End Photo Appendix